

Daniel Merline
2088 Phillips Rd. #33
New Bedford, MA 02745

JUN 21 2010

Department of Public Health
Determination of Need Department
99 Chauncy Street
2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02111

June 18, 2010

Greetings,

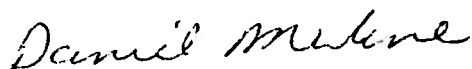
I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed transaction between Caritas Christi and its' related hospitals and medical practice corporations and Steward Health Care System LLC.

Caritas, which has provided accessible, compassionate and advanced care in the region for many generations, is anxious to close this transaction in hopes of preserving its legacy to those it serves. Despite its guarantees of a windfall of infusion of cash and capital to all of the Caritas member hospitals, Steward Health is a newly formed affiliate of Cerberus Capital Management L.P.. My concern is what will happen at the end of the proposed 3 year transition period. A capital management corporation is in the business of making as big as a profit as possible. Caritas's mission is caring for as many people as it can. This mission as a non-profit operation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts needs to continue.

May I suggest that Caritas look to form a strategic plan to solve its fiscal situation. Not for the sake of having a plan in place, but to form a strategic plan using its internal talent pool of financial analysts, healthcare administrators and medical clinicians as well as recruiting expertise in healthcare planning. It may be necessary to make hard decisions that would streamline areas of service, but these choices need to be made and implemented in today's climate of decreasing reimbursement to providers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Merline